

Distinguished Speaker Series

Co-sponsored by the World Affairs Council of Sacramento,
The McGeorge Global Center for Business & Development and
the McGeorge International Law Society

FLEEING CONFLICT AND POVERTY: REFUGEES SEEK A NEW LIFE



Thursday, Nov. 10, 2016

5:00 - 6:00 p.m.

McGeorge School of Law | Grand Salon

Reception to follow 6:00 - 6:40 p.m.

Speakers:

Jessica Therkelsen, Esq., Director of Advocacy and Communications, Asylum Access

Torin Jones, Doctoral Candidate; Anthropology Department; Stanford University

Moderator:

Raquel Aldana, Professor of Law and Associate Dean for Faculty Scholarship

21 million people worldwide have left their home countries to seek safety from war, conflict and persecution. On average, these refugees spend nearly 20 years housed in a closed refugee camp or left on the margins of society.

Many countries of asylum do not recognize the human rights of refugees – who are typically not allowed to work, send their kids to school, or access local health care. They often can't walk down the street without fear of arrest, detention and deportation. Jessica Therkelsen will speak about the plight of refugees fleeing conflict, the difficulties they face accessing basic human rights, and the rampant use of unjust detention.

More and more migrants are arriving by boat every day from North Africa to Italy, which has become the main entry point to Europe. Huge numbers of people hope to make their journey northwards towards Germany, France, and Sweden. Torin Jones will tell the stories of the African refugees that he has met during his research in refugee camps in Sicily, Italy.